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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
O 4 TT 1 0610
Group Art Unit: 2618
Confirmation No.: 7539
September 21, 2009

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the below listed documents that are not U.S. patent documents are enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Publication No. 2003/0100335
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 6,862,737
- (3) JP 2000-305885
- (4) JP 2002-232435
- (5) JP 2003-163668

Documents (3) to (5) were cited during prosecution of a Japanese Patent Application (Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-119259) corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action dated September 11, 2009 is enclosed and is listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

In addition, this communication was not received by any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, such that Applicant should not be penalized for patent term adjustment. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d).

Document (1) is believed to be an English-language counterpart to document (5). Document (2) is believed to be an English-language counterpart to document (3). In addition, English-language abstracts are provided for documents (3) to (5).

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant Michael K. O'Neill Registration No.: 32,622

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